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AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Sari Pul Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Sari Pul from January 2002 - June 2011: \$72.8 million

Estimated population: 497,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Sari Pul

Note: PRT projects deployed from Mazar-i Sharif



Sari Pul is named after the Buddhist disciple Sariputta, who originated from the area. Today, the province has an Uzbek majority and Hazara minority. The region's landscape, characterized by a steppe (grassland plain), is traversed by several rivers. Agriculture is the province's primary industry, with mainly cereal crops and melons cultivated by the regions' farmers. This rural area has remained largely undeveloped, with an insufficient number of schools or health clinics to serve the population.

AGRICULTURE

Goal: Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL) capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

Summary: USAID focuses on preparing farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through improved agricultural opportunities, veterinary services, market links, and training. USAID also promotes natural resource and biodiversity conservation in Sari Pul Province.

Current Activities:

- Conduct agricultural productivity training in improved methods of cultivation
- Conduct silkworm, wool training, and market development for women
- Complete five micro-hydro power plants (10khw each)
- Strengthen the network of agricultural retailers to ensure the sustainable availability of high-quality inputs
- Develop extension services able to improve basic orchard management
- Introduce trellising for grapevines including subsidized sales of concrete posts by manufacturers
- Support Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) to deliver animal health services such as vaccinations and medications and train herders on herd health
- Conduct veterinary courses for VFUs
- Establish two milk collection and processing centers
- Train women on improved cattle management



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Accomplishments:

- Facilitated the creation of 20 village environmental committees to oversee environmental conservation and natural resource management
- Installed and funded an AgNet Internet communications system and weather station in the provincial MAIL office, providing access to the National Agriculture Information System database that collects and transmits local weather, market price, and agricultural data to ministry headquarters and local farmers
- Established 60 fruit and forestry nurseries, including 10 community nurseries, 30 private nurseries, and 20 farm forestry nurseries
- Planted 14,000 trees and trained 380 Afghan farmers on community land and nursery management
- Raised environmental awareness in schools through the Adopt-a-Tree Program and the distribution of 4,500 storybooks about the environment
- Preserved wild pistachio woodlands and increased rural income through community-based forest management by reforesting 250 hectares of pistachio woodlands, training local residents on the establishment and maintenance of nurseries, and providing environmental education
- Contributed to the development of the rangeland law on behalf of herders
- Conducted rangeland survey
- Institutionalized three rangeland management technologies
- Trained Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods and conflict resolution
- Supported nine VFUs, providing animal health services on a sustainable commercial basis
- Provided training to 14,300 farmers on control of melon fly
- Contributed to the development of the rangeland law on behalf of herders
- Conducted a rangeland survey
- Institutionalized three rangeland management technologies
- Trained 100 women in Gosfandi District in silkworm rearing

DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

Goal: Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality and quantity of public services to Afghan citizens. Support independent media institutions and advocacy groups.

Summary: USAID supports democracy and governance in Sari Pul Province through activities including legislative strengthening, electoral support, justice sector reform, media, and civil-society development.

Current Activities:

- Provide capacity building training to civil-society organizations
- Train provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy: financial management, human resources management, procurement, project management, and strategy and policy development
- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations
- Provide the provincial governor with operational resources and money for community outreach and micro projects to support his needs and serve as incentive to develop
- Develop the human and institutional capacity of the courts, increase access to justice particularly for women, and develop and implement a case tracking system including professional training for judges and administrators on the system



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Accomplishments:

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 17 judges in the province
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the new Afghanistan Court Administration System, a case-management system that improves the courts' ability to manage cases and provide due process, leading to more effective and transparent rule of law
- Supported justice sector development through a one-month Foundation Training Program for 16 sitting judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for two judicial candidates, providing judges access to the tools necessary to officiate over the courts
- Assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a new ethics code for all judges and provided training for all of Afghanistan's judges in the contents and importance of the code
- Conducted women's rights public outreach campaigns and met with local academics, religious leaders, government representatives, and human rights activists to discuss interpretations of women's rights under Islam
- Provided training to the provincial council and facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and sharia teachers to improve professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Promoted public participation in governance through civic education in advance of the 2004-2005 elections
- Supported the 2008 voter registration exercise, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the elections, and ultimately helped conduct the 2009/2010 elections
- Provided capacity building training to four civil-society organizations
- Awarded 15 grants

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal: Create a developed business climate that enables private investment, job creation, and financial independence.

Summary: USAID's economic growth program helps the Afghan government develop sound economic governance and works with the private sector to stimulate investment and business opportunities. USAID partners with Afghans and the Afghan government to attract investment, generate sustainable employment, and expand market linkages. USAID promotes a lawful economy in Sari Pul Province through expanding access to loan distribution, telecommunications, and modern banking services.

Current Activities:

- Provide provincial budgeting support to select line ministries and providing training to provincial officials through the establishment of regional provincial budgeting training hubs

Accomplishments:

- Installed seven district communications network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, provided training for bank staff, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) that operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments. Services such as these



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increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private-sectors

- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Sari Pul Mustofiat, which has dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue reports, and uploading into the consolidated Ministry of Finance Financial Management System
- Implemented the Core Banking System, DAB's automated transaction and financial management system which dramatically improves service delivery, funds transfer capabilities, and improves accounting and financial reporting functions
- Supported the Sari Pul mayor's study tour to India on regularization and upgrading of informal settlements, which will lead to improved property rights in the capital city
- Supported 40 small and medium enterprises with organizing and conducting roundtable meetings for associations
- Promoted economic expansion and rural enterprise development through micro-credit lending
- Supported the revenue reconciliation team of the Sari Pul Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center
- Promoted improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation

EDUCATION

Goal: Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher quality and increased availability of primary school textbooks; improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and employability instruction.

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Sari Pul Province through three national education projects. USAID has provided in-service teacher training (INSET), developed in-school teacher support activities (ITSA), provided radio-based teacher support programs, provided support to local communities through capacity strengthening in partnerships with non-governmental organizations and Ministry of Education personnel, printed textbooks, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

Current Activities:

- Conduct INSET 2 training for teachers
- Develop accelerated learning materials and train the trainers' program
- Conduct school management training 2
- Provide radio-based teacher support programs to improve teachers' skills and performance
- Offer the 18-month program in literacy and productive skills for youth and adults in 48 communities through 185 literacy centers
- Continue textbook support
- Fund remedial education for out-of-school and over-aged girls

Accomplishments:

- Broadcast supplementary radio-based teacher support programs
- Established 185 literacy centers
- Trained approximately 6,200 teachers and 315 trainers in INSET training
- Established more than 345 Teacher Learning Circles in 327 schools
- Developed school improvement plans in 327 schools



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- Established 254 school management committees
- Completed 25,488 teacher observations during the project life
- Printed more than 1.3 million textbooks
- Established 66 school manager practicum groups for 339 school principals
- Constructed 12 schools

HEALTH

Goal: Improve the coverage and quality of health service delivery and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.

Summary: USAID's principal health investments in Sari Pul Province come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family planning products and provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

Current Activities:

- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through private sector outlets
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in five sentinel sites
- Train community health worker trainers and community health supervisors, and orient new non-government organization staff, to expand the use of post-partum family planning

Accomplishments:

- Trained 300 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare

INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: Improve infrastructure to create licit economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

Summary: The infrastructure program in Sari Pul Province focuses on the maintenance of roads and expansion of water facilities while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Maintain the Shibirghan to Sari Pul Road to facilitate travel and reduce vehicle operating costs
- Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Public Works to implement an effective road maintenance program utilizing Afghan contractors
- Issue a tender for the construction of a piped water supply in Dara-e-Suf

Accomplishments:

- Installed water pipes to increase access to water for the Kohistanat community, improving the health of people, livestock, and crops
- Rehabilitated 4 km of district center roads and one bridge, shortening travel time, improving economic opportunities, and providing access to health services and educational institutions
- Rehabilitated 54 km of the Shibirghan to Sari Pul Provincial Road



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STABILIZATION

Goal: Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium- to long-term development activities.

Summary: USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community-development projects.

Current Activities:

- Rehabilitate 30 km of road from Maghzar to Changezy village in Balkhab District
- Support community-level labor-intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community-development priorities, and offer temporary employment (wages earned through these public and community works projects enable the poor to purchase food for themselves and their families)

Accomplishments:

- Provided capacity-building, technical training, and mentoring for the Provincial Development Council
- Offered vocational training in tailoring and carpet weaving to provide residents with the skills to launch productive careers
- Provided technical advisors to the provincial governor, Department of Economy, Department of Women's Affairs, and Department of Labor and Social Affairs
- Provided office commodities to provincial government facilities
- Constructed community infrastructure, which included school buildings and water drinking reservoirs with filter systems
- Supported irrigation canal cleaning and maintenance